



**KATHERINE L. DAVIS**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**STATE OF INDIANA**  
STATE CAPITOL  
**INDIANAPOLIS 46204**

**News Release:**

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

**Media Contact:**

Jeff Harris, (317) 232-3396  
Ronnetta Slaughter, (317) 232-4789  
Diane Wieland, (317) 232-6699

***Davis Awards Grant to Energize  
Northwestern Indiana's Workforce***

Indianapolis, Ind. – Speaking at Valparaiso University, Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis presented today a \$400,000 grant to the Center of Workforce Innovation to further develop northwest Indiana's 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

Awarded through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the Center of Workforce Innovation (CWI) serves as the Workforce Investment Board for Jasper, LaPorte, Newton, Pulaski and Starke Counties. Using the grant, CWI will offer training opportunities in the life sciences, advanced manufacturing, 21<sup>st</sup> century logistics and information technology sectors.

"The Center for Workforce Innovation has taken Energize Indiana to heart," said Davis. "Through CWI's efforts, each targeted industry cluster is receiving attention and the training needs of both incumbent and dislocated workers are being met. This is a great investment in the future and we look forward to seeing the long-term results."

Awarded through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Energizing Indiana's Workforce grants, are designed to encourage the state's WIBs to create stronger links between economic and workforce development. Specifically, the grants are used to support efforts to upgrade the skills of the Hoosier workforce in the four industry sectors: life sciences, advanced manufacturing, high-tech distribution and information technology.

CWI is working with the LaPorte Regional Health System to provide health care workers additional training and skills. It is also partnering with the Ports of Indiana and Ivy Tech State College to offer training 21<sup>st</sup> century logistics and advanced manufacturing and information technology fields.

"We have been working for some time with these employers to develop their training plans and strategies so this grant has come at an opportune time," stated Linda Woloshansky, WIB Director. "The state's investment now allows these companies to realize their vision for their workforce."

Lt. Gov. Davis added, "As we continue to target specific industries for growth, it is crucial that we also develop and train Hoosiers in those fields. This grant not only supports the efforts of the Center of Workforce Innovation, it also supports the goals of Indiana@Work. By bringing the public and private sectors together to develop training programs we meet the needs of our companies and our workers, which is a winning combination."

Indiana@Work is comprehensive workforce development plan, announced by the governor in his State-of-the-State address. The program combines the efforts of DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce in an effort to match jobseekers with companies that have openings. It also provides training funds to businesses, for potential employees who are facing a “skills gap” that could keep them from attaining higher-pay jobs. And, eventually, Indiana@Work will help workers develop “e-resumes” that they can carry with them throughout their careers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, works with regional workforce investment boards as CWI, partners with the state’s 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this, or any other DWD program visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

###